

Message Text

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 DPW-01 OIC-02 AID-05 /071 W

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R 210900Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7434

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 0814

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, ICRC, VN, VS

SUBJECT: PRG ISSUE AT SECOND SESSION OF CONFERENCE ON LAW OF WAR

REF: STATE 8673

SUMMARY: FONOFF PROMISED COOPERATION ALONG LINES REFTEL
IN REJECTING INVITATION TO PRG TO CONFERENCE. OFFICIALS
NOTED ESTABLISHMENT OF PRG LIAISON OFFICE IN GENEVA WOULD
ENHANCE PRG CLAIMS TO LEGITIMACY AND MIGHT AFFECT VOTE IN
CONFERENCE. IN LIGHT CONGRESSIONAL CUTS AND OPPOSITION TO
AID TO SVN, JAPANESE QUESTIONED USG SUPPORT FOR GVN AND
WONDERED IF FIRM OPPOSITION TO PRG MIGHT ALSO BE AFFECTED.
END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING GVN EMBASSY DEMARCHE ON PRG PARTICIPATION IN
CONFERENCE, WE DISCUSSED ISSUE WITH FONOFF UN SOCIAL AFFAIRS
DIV DIRECTOR OTAKA. HE EXPECTS ISSUE TO BE RAISED, AGREED
WE SHARE SAME GOAL, AND SHOULD KEEP IN TOUCH ESPECIALLY
IN GENEVA. CONCURRING THAT RULE 32 SHOULD BE APPLICABLE,
HE NOTED THAT RULE 32 ITSELF COULD BE CHANGED BY SIMPLE
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MAJORITY VOTE. ESTABLISHMENT OF PRG LIAISON OFFICE IN

GENEVA IS ALSO MATTER OF CONCERN, SINCE PRG SUPPORTERS CAN NOW CONTEND, INCORRECTLY BUT WITH EFFECT, THAT UN ITSELF HAS GRANTED SOME RECOGNITION TO PRG.

2. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF CONFERENCE, OTAKA PROBED AT LENGTH ON US ATTITUDES TOWARD GVN AND PRG. HE CLEARLY THOUGHT CONGRESSIONAL CUTS OF AID TO SVN HOBbled ARVN MILITARILY AND ACCOUNTED FOR CURRENT DIFFICULTIES IN PHUOC BINH AND ELSEWHERE. HE OPENLY WONDERED IF CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES MIGHT NOT PRESAGE END OF US SUPPORT FOR GVN AND PERHAPS MOVEMENT TOWARD RECOGNITION OF PRG. EMBOFF COUNTERED OTAKA'S SPECULATION VIGOROUSLY BUT HE CLEARLY CONTINUES TO QUESTION US STEADFASTNESS AND GVN'S SURVIVABILITY.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH OTAKA DOES NOT REGULARLY FOLLOW HIS VIEWS MAY OFFER INSIGHT INTO ATTITUDES OF OTHERS IN FONOFF. IF SO, DEEP CUTS IN US AID TO GVN, CONTINUING MILITARY REVERSES TO SAIGON, AND EVOLVING ENHANCEMENT OF PRG'S POSITION WILL GRADUALLY ERODE SUPPORT IN GOJ FOR GVN. HODGSON

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